

## Capsule Summary

~~SM-628~~ SM-352

Scotland African-American School

Scotland

Private

(Page 1)

1878 ?, 1920s

While altered since its initial construction in the late-nineteenth century, the Scotland African-American School captures the role of the one-room schoolhouse in educating rural blacks in St. Mary's County. Situated at the northeast corner of Fresh Pond Neck Road and Maryland Route 5, the school originally featured a foundation of brick piers, board-and-batten siding, as well as a wood shingle roof.<sup>1</sup> The interior consisted of one room entered through two doors -- one for girls and one for boys -- that were covered by a small enclosed vestibule on the west gable end.<sup>2</sup> Subsequent changes have effectively blurred this original appearance.

Despite these modifications, the school still holds meaning for many southern St. Mary's County residents and former residents. According to the current owner Guffrie Smith, the west half of the building was constructed in 1878 and was originally situated on a nearby farm. Sometime in the 1920s, the school was moved to its present location and an addition was placed on the east gable end. Historic photographs taken by the Farm Security Administration in the 1940s to show the plight of poor rural blacks documented the conditions of the Scotland School. One photo taken of the west and south elevations shows how the period II section of the school featured differently sized window sash and an irregular spacing between bays -- lending further credence to the two periods of construction.

---

1 Historical photographs taken in the 1940s by the Farm Security Administration reveal the building's original appearance. See Andrea Hammer, But Now When I Look Back: Remembering St. Mary's County Through Farm Security Administration Photographs (Westminster, Md: Opera House Printing, 1988), 50-54.

2 Field notes of Julia King, Andrea Hammer, and Gale Burwell, July 27, 1992. King, Hammer, and Burwell found evidence for a second door near the location of the present window on the present west gable end.

## Capsule Summary

~~SM-620~~ SM-352

Scotland African-American School

Scotland

Private

(Page 2)

1878 ?, 1920s

Oral histories collected by Dr. Andrea Hammer has provided much needed insight into the daily function of the school. Elvare Gaskins, for instance, recalls that the schoolyard had a swingset in the rear, a boys and girls privy, and a small wood shed. The interior featured desks that sat three in a row. Curiously, she also remembers that nearby St. Lukes United Methodist Church used the neighboring property for camp meetings. Elvare also remembers that the school's two teachers were often local residents, such as Beulah Bennett, the wife of fellow educator Edward Bennett of Ridge (See SM-614). Other teachers, however, had to be boarded at local residents houses such as at the residence of Elvare's grandmother Nancy Gough.

The educational arrangements and challenges imposed by one room school houses were soon superseded by the regionalization of county educational facilities beginning in the mid-twentieth century. In 1948 the black schools at Scotland, Ridge, and St. Inigoes (SM-570) were combined at Jarboesville. In 1961, Guffrie Smith purchased the school from the St. Mary's County Board of Education and the building is currently used as a barbers shop and laundry for the neighboring trailer park.

SM-352, Scotland African-American School  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Historic Period Theme:	Architecture Education Cultural

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural Crossroads
Historic Function and Use:	School
Known Design Source:	None

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. ~~SM-520~~  
SM-352  
Magi No.  
DOE   yes   no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Scotland Colored School

and/or common Scotland African-American School

**2. Location**

street & number 49454 Fresh Pond Neck Rd. NE corner of Rt. 5 & Fresh Pond Neck Rd.   not for publication

city, town Scotland   x   vicinity of   congressional district   1

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM-71, G-19, P-150

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  </u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture <u>  </u> museum
<u>  </u> x building(s)	<u>  </u> x private	<u>  </u> x unoccupied	<u>  </u> x commercial <u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational <u>  </u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment <u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> x yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government <u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial <u>  </u> transportation
	<u>  </u> x not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military <u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Guffrie M. and Parthenia W. Smith

street & number 49825 Fresh Pond Neck Rd. telephone no.: 301-872-5655

city, town Scotland state and zip code Md 20687

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse   liber CBG 112

street & number      folio 397

city, town Leonardtwn   state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title   

date      federal   state   county   local

depository for survey records   

city, town      state

## 7. Description

Survey No. ~~SM-622~~ SM-352

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move 1920s?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

Situated on the northeast corner of Long Neck Road and Maryland Route 5, the Scotland African-American School is located approximately one-and-a-half miles south of the Maryland Route 5 and Route 235 crossroads near Scotland, St. Mary's County, Maryland. Oriented on an east/west axis, the building is bounded by roads and a neighboring trailer park. Just west of the school, however, is a large farm which helps to recall the rural character of the crossroads.

The Scotland School is a one story, two bay, frame building with a gable front entry. Constructed in 1878 and added on to in 1920, the building originally featured a single room but has since been divided into two rooms in order to accommodate a barber shop, office, and laundry. The original section's foundation consists of deteriorating brick piers accompanied by newer cinder block. The 1920 section is underpinned by poured concrete piers. The exterior is currently sheathed with faux-brick, asphalt shingles. The cornice is open and the roof of the original section is covered with raised-seam metal while the addition is covered with asphalt shingles. The roof is pierced by an interior brick chimney flue. Historic photographs reveal the exterior was originally covered with board-and-batten siding.

The primary or west elevation's fenestration consists of a four panel door and a fixed-pane glass window. The doorway is currently covered by a sign commemorating the 1998 NCAA basketball champion Kentucky Wildcats. Julia King noted that another doorway was once located in the current location of the window, but has since been replaced. Historic photographs reveal that both of these doorways were once covered by an enclosed vestibule entered via a single door. Very similar in form to the St. Inigoes African-American School (SM-570). King also noted that the current concrete block steps rest on Choptank stone which may have been the original steps. The north elevation is pierced by two, six-over-six windows. The east elevation does not feature any openings, but does exhibit a low shed-roof addition which is currently used for storage. The south elevation is pierced by two doors and four windows. The 1920 addition is pierced by a six-panel door and two six-over-one windows. The original section is pierced by a centrally located four-pane-over-two-panel door flanked on either side by a one-over-one window. The bays of the 1920's addition are larger than those located on the original block.

The interior presently consists of three rooms. The original section is currently divided into two spaces. The barber shop is entered from the south side. This eleven by eleven space is the only heated area in the building. The front part of the original section is sometimes used as an office space. The rear addition has been used as a laundry room and can only be entered from the south side.

The building was slated for demolition in 1992. Julia King, Andrea Hammer, and Gale Burwell measured and documented the building using measured drawings and 35 mm photographs, but the structure is still extant. Plans for the structure are still uncertain.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. ~~SM-620~~ SM-352

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

While altered since its initial construction in the late-nineteenth century, the Scotland African-American School represents a significant building that captures the role of the one-room schoolhouse in educating rural blacks in St. Mary's County. Situated at the northeast corner of Fresh Pond Neck Road and Maryland Route 5, the school originally featured a foundation of brick piers, board-and-batten siding, as well as a wood shingle roof.<sup>1</sup> The interior consisted of one room entered through two doors -- one for girls and one for boys -- that were covered by a small enclosed vestibule on the west gable end.<sup>2</sup> Subsequent changes have effectively blurred this original appearance. The vestibule has been removed, the exterior fenestration modified, and the exterior sheathed with faux-brick asphalt siding.

Despite these changes, the school still holds meaning for many southern St. Mary's County residents and former residents. Oral histories collected by Dr. Andrea Hammer illuminates the origins and history of this one room school. According to the current owner Guffrie Smith, the west half of the building was constructed in 1878 and was originally situated on a nearby farm. Sometime in the 1920s, the school was relocated to its present location and an addition was placed on the east gable end. Historic photographs taken by the Farm Security Administration in the 1940s to show the plight of poor rural blacks documented the conditions of the Scotland School. One photo taken of the west and south elevations reveals a dirt yard bounded on the south and west sides by stubby wooden posts marking the boundaries with the two roads. It also shows how the east section of the school featured differently sized window sash and an irregular spacing between bays -- lending further credence to the two periods of construction.

<sup>1</sup> Historical photographs taken in the 1940s by the Farm Security Administration reveal the building's original appearance. See Andrea Hammer, But Now When I Look Back: Remembering St. Mary's County Through Farm Security Administration Photographs (Westminster, Md: Opera House Printing, 1988), 50-54.

<sup>2</sup> Field notes of Julia King, Andrea Hammer, and Gale Burwell, July 27, 1992. King, Hammer, and Burwell found evidence for a second door near the location of the present window on the present west gable end.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. ~~SM-352~~ SM-352

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.21Quadrangle name Point Lookout, MdQuadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting NorthingB 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting NorthingC 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Dept. of Planning & Zoningdate May, 1998street & number 22740 Washington Streettelephone 301-475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032  
514-7600

SM-352

~~SM-620~~, Scotland African-American School

St. Mary's County

### 8.1 Significance

Other county residents who were either students or teachers provide insight into the daily function of the school. Elvare Gaskins, for instance, recalls that the schoolyard had a swingset in the rear, a boys and girls privy, and a small wood shed. The interior featured desks that sat three in a row. Curiously, she also remembers that nearby St. Lukes United Methodist Church used the neighboring property for camp meetings. Elvare also remembers that the school's two teachers were often local residents, such as Beulah Bennett, the wife of fellow educator Edward Bennett of Ridge (See SM-614). Other teachers, however, had to be boarded at local residents houses.

The educational arrangements and challenges imposed by one room school houses were soon superseded by the regionalization of county educational facilities beginning in the mid-twentieth century. In 1948 the black schools at Scotland, Ridge, and St. Inigoes (SM-570) were combined at Jarboesville. In 1961, Guffrie Smith purchased the school from the St. Mary's County Board of Education and the building is currently used as a barbers shop and laundry for the neighboring trailer park.



SM-352

~~SM-628~~ Scotland African-American School  
St. Mary's County  
8.2 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber CBG 112, Folio 397

Grantee: Guffrie M. and Parthenia W. Smith

Grantor: Board of Education, St. Mary's County

Date: April 1, 1964

Notes: The parcel contains 1.219 acres. Situated at the corner of Fresh Pond Neck Road and Maryland Route Five, it is called the "Old Colored Scotland School Lot." A survey by W. L. Bowman, dated March 10, 1961, is also mentioned. The absence of a bean clause and exhaustive research by Regina Combs Hammett and Pat Biondi has not been able to determine how the county obtained the property.

St. Mary's - 352  
Scotland School  
MD. Rte. 5 & Fresh Pond Rd.  
Scotland, MD 20687

1878

Access: Public

This building is now used as a Barber Shop. It stands 20' from the east side of MD. Rte. 5 at the corner of Fresh Pond Neck Road across that road from St. Luke ME Church. Scotland School is located on land that was donated by a Quaker family named Boardley in 1878 to the St. Mary's County Bd. of Education for the purpose of establishing a black primary school. The building that stands on this site was originally a white elementary school that was moved there from Carriage Lane Rd. in 1879. The school was sold by the St. Mary's County Bd. of Education to Mr. Guffrie M. Smith, Sr. in 1949.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI# 1903525511

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Scotland School

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

(Leonardtown Point Lookout Road)  
Md. Rte 5<sup>A</sup> & Fresh Pond Neck Rds.

CITY, TOWN

Scotland

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY St. Marys

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☒ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☒ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☐ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☒ OTHER Barber Shop

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Guffrie M. Smith, Sr.

Telephone #: 872-5655

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Guffrie M. Smith Trailer Park

CITY, TOWN

Scotland

VICINITY OF

STATE zip code  
MD, 20687**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Marys Co. Court House

Liber #: CBG 112

Folio #: 397

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown Park

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

N/A

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE 1878

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This building is now used as a Barber Shop by it's owner, Guffrie M. Smith, Sr. It stands 20' from the east side of Md. Rte. 5 at the corner of Fresh Pond Neck Rd. across that road from St. Luke ME Church. It is 18' across the front and 20' in depth. The front door was originally in the west gable and there is still a door there 6 panel (wood). There is also a 1-over-1 3' glass window in the west gable at the northwest corner. The owner informed me there was once a vestibule attached to the west gable that he had removed. There are 3 of the same three-over-3 3' clear glass one over one windows on the south side of the building. The new entrance is also on the south side where 2 cement steps lead to a wooden door with 2 panes of glass up. There are three windows on the north side with 6-over-6 tops and single-paned lowers (all windows are rectangular). The building rests on a frame of hand hewn logs and is constructed of vertical random width siding. Old wood shingles cover the roof.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1878

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Scotland School is located on land that was donated by the Quaker family of Boardley for the establishment of a Public School for blacks. The Boardley's donated this land in 1878 to the St. Mary's County Board of Education. The building that stands on this property was originally a white elementary school that was moved from Carriage Lane Road and placed there in 1879. The school was sold by the St. Mary's Board of Education to Guffrie M. Smith, Sr. in 1949.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

James W. Clark, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION Maryland Commission on Afro-American  
History & Culture

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

20 Dean St.

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

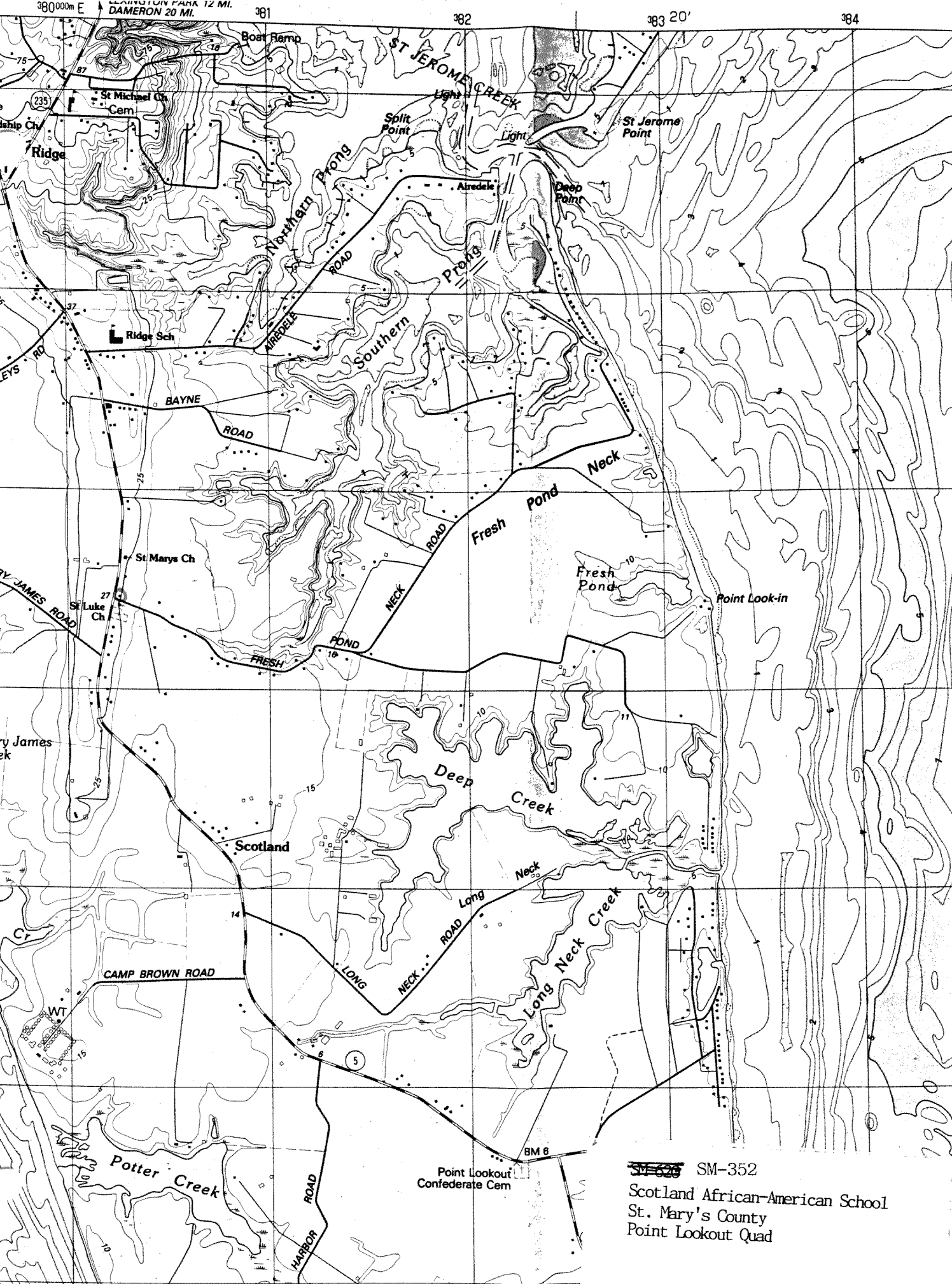
STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



SM-352  
Scotland African-American School  
St. Mary's County  
Point Lookout Quad





-352



SM-352

Scotland African American

St. Mary's County

Kirk Frazier

4/17/78

4d 5120

S+E elevations

2 of 2



Scotland School

SM-352

Scotland, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD

Northwest elevation

1/81